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Winter 1995 Newsletter

Issue Number 5

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ACTIVITIES

Enclosed in this mailing you will find a pre-registration form for the upcoming GSA North-Central/South-Central Section meeting that is taking place in Lincoln, NE., April 27-29, 1995. Teachers are welcome to attend all meeting functions at a reduced registration rate of \$10. Events that are of special interests to teachers include:

Friday, April 28, 1995: Earth Science Education Day.

A.M.

State Geological Survey and K-12 educators' Geo-Share. This event will be an opportunity for state geological surveys to exhibit their earth science materials (i.e., maps, publications, etc.). Selected examples of materials created by NESEN teachers will be featured. NESEN teachers interested in providing materials should contact Julie Dial before March 31, 1995. K-12 educators from various states are also being encouraged to participate. Geo-Share will provide a wonderful opportunity for geoscientists and K-12 professionals to exchange ideas on using materials available from geological surveys to support earth science education.

P.M.

Forum on K-12 Earth Science Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and Benefits for the Geoscience Community. Speakers from around the Midwest will present their perspectives on educational issues concerning both the geoscience and K-12 professional communities. Speakers currently scheduled include: Nina Lawson, representing the K-6 area; Bill Beckman, representing the 7-12 area; Ron Bonnstetter, representing pre-service education; Ed Geary, representing geoscience professional organizations; and Norm Hester, representing the state geological surveys. Formal presentations will be followed by a general discussion of key issues and specific ways in which geoscientists can help improve earth science education at all levels.

Saturday, April 29, 1995: Field Trips

You will find a variety of postmeeting field trips offered on Saturday. All trips originate from Lincoln except trip number 9. Consult the enclosed pre-registration form for more information. (Note: this form should be sent to GSA.)

NESEN SUMMER WORKSHOPS 1995

The following three workshops will be available on a first response basis. **What's in a Rock**, presented by Marv Carlson and Dave Gosselin, July 13 & 14. **Rural and Urban Applications of Soil Surveys**, presented by Francis Belohlavy and Mark Kuzila, July 15 & 16. **Understanding the Earth in Four Dimensions**, presented by Marv Carlson and Dave Gosselin, July 17 & 18. Priority will be given to K-12 educators. Workshop descriptions and registration form are enclosed.

NESEN MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

We will soon publish and distribute a second edition of the *NESEN Membership Directory and Information Guide*. Included in this mailing is a "NESEN Membership Directory and Information Guide Update Form." We need each NESEN member to verify current information, as well as provide us with more details about yourself. Our goal is to encourage and promote interactions between all earth science educators. Please complete this update form and return it by March 10, 1995. Also as part of the second edition of the NESEN Membership Directory and Information Guide, we would like to include an earth science activities chapter. Find your best one- or two-page earth science activity (i.e. lesson plan), and mail it to Duane Mohlman, Conservation and Survey Division, 113 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE., 68588-0517. To ensure you receive proper credit, make sure your name and school are included on the activity. Please send these in by March 20, 1995. We will publish as many as possible. (You may return your earth science activity with the Update Form.)

NESEN AT NATS RESULTS

NESEN membership expanded by 22 science educators. Each of these new members were sent packets of information welcoming them to our network. A number of NESEN members presented sessions at the conference this year. The majority of sessions were earth science related, and a few sessions included life science and general science topics. We acknowledge the following presenters for their time, effort, and interest. Earth science sessions included: John Niemoth (Science Journals); Ed Schafer (Project Atmosphere); MaryLou Alfieri & Marianne Bonnemier (What's In A Rock & Nebraska's Water); Francis Belohlavy (Soil Survey Share-a-thon); and the second annual NESEN share-a-thon hosted by NESEN members. Life science sessions included: Bob Feurer (Worm Wonderlands) and MaryLou Alfieri & Corkie Neumann (Bottle Biology). General sessions included: Carol Ann Engelmann (Waste: A Hidden Resource); Joel McCleary (Scaling the Allosaurus); and Dave Lewis (And Then There Was Soil). Hats-off to all the educators involved for furthering the science knowledge of Nebraska students.

NASA PROJECT STATUS

The first phase of Internet hook-up is nearing completion. U.S. West and L.T.&T. line technicians are finishing the connections for all selected pilot schools. The second phase of Internet hook-up, which involves ordering computer hardware and obtaining the necessary software, is also taking place. The selected teachers have requested computers that are compatible with each school site. The computers are on order and should arrive by the first part of March. The third phase of Internet connectivity will occur March 31, 1995. The pilot site teachers from O'Neill, North Bend, Raymond, Diller, St. Thomas More, Westside, and Scottsbluff will be attending a formal Internet training session to be held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. A morning training session will take place at the Wick Alumni Center. This session will be hosted by Linda Roos from the Computing Resource Center (CRC). An afternoon session will be hosted by Sara Moshman, also of the CRC, at the Multi-media Center. We are looking forward to this training session as several Nebraska resources will be made available for those navigating the Internet.

BONUS ACTIVITY

Material is presently being developed by earth scientists at the Conservation and Survey Division relating to a K-12 rivers unit. Since this unit is currently under construction, we thought you might like a sample of the activities underway. Enclosed is a crossword puzzle and word search on Nebraska rivers. The targeted area for these activities is K-6. Feel free to use and copy these puzzles as you see fit.